

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-8 have been canceled in favor of new claims 9-22. The new claims render moot the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and the claim objections. The new claims are supported by the original application as filed. See, for example, the local telephony network in Figures 3 - 5 showing three jacks and the corresponding description, the serial connection of four jacks illustrated in Fig. 6 and described in the corresponding description, and the internal structure and function of the jacks shown in Figs. 7 and 8 and described in the corresponding description.

The new title suggested by the Examiner has been adopted.

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 in light of Daoud. Claims 6-8 stand rejected for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 in light of Streck. These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the newly-presented claims.

Daoud discloses a network interface device that connects a telephone test equipment plug to the telephone lines of a central office, while at the same time disconnects a customer's telephone lines from those of the central office. When that plug is removed, the customer's telephone lines are reconnected to the telephone lines of the central office. The simultaneous connection/disconnection is accomplished by inserting the test plug into the cavity of a jack of the network interface device.

Streck discloses a telephone and a fax sharing a common telephone line. Incoming calls are automatically switched from the telephone to the facsimile device as appropriate, and the use of the common telephone line for the telephone and the facsimile device for both incoming and outgoing calls is transparent to users. Logic is provided that answers an incoming call on the telephone line, determines whether the incoming call is from a facsimile device, switches a

switch to a first output position when an incoming call from a non-facsimile device is detected, and switches the switch to a second output position when an incoming call from a facsimile device is detected. A plug receptacle receives a plug containing the telephone line and a pair of spare wires. A pair of interconnecting wires connect the switch and the plug receptacle.

To establish that a claim is anticipated, the Examiner must point out where each and every limitation in the claim is found in a single prior art reference. *Scripps Clinic & Research Found. v. Genentec, Inc.*, 927 F.2d 1565 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Every limitation contained in the claims must be present in the reference, and if even one limitation is missing from the reference, then it does not anticipate the claim. *Kloster Speedsteel AB v. Crucible, Inc.*, 793 F.2d 1565 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Neither Daoud nor Streck teach all the features of claims 9 and 16.

Regarding claim 9, the claimed first network is not disclosed in Daoud; nor is clear what elements correspond to both the second network or equipment and the third network or equipment. Daoud also does not teach:

- “a plurality of serially connected jacks including a first jack, each of the serially connected jacks adapted to receive a plug”
- “each of the serially connected jacks having two pairs of contact members, a first pair and a second pair, and connecting/breaking means for connecting corresponding contact members of the first and second pairs, respectively, the connecting/breaking means adapted to be operated by pins of a plug inserted in the respective jack, so that the corresponding contact members of the first and second pairs have electrical connections between them in the case where no plug is inserted in the respective jack and have the electrical connections between them broken when a plug is inserted in the respective jack”

- “each contact member of the first pair of each one of those ones of the jacks, which have a subsequent jack in the series of jacks, being connected to the corresponding contact member of the second pair of the subsequent jack in the series.”

In addition, the first jack in the serial connection has a special connection: “the contact members of the second pair of the first jack being directly connected to a second network or to second equipment.” That claimed first jack is not disclosed in Daoud (or Streck). Nor is the special function of the connector plug: “the connector plug, by operating the connecting/breaking means of said one of the jacks, acts as a circuit breaker for signals communicated between jacks subsequent to said one of the jacks in the series of interconnected jacks and the second network or second equipment, and at the same time connects said subsequent jacks to the third network or the third equipment and disconnects said subsequent jacks from the second network or the second equipment.”

Regarding Streck, the Examiner points to item 40 as the claimed plug from original claim 6. But item 40 corresponds to a case of the master telephone 24, see col. 4, lines 33 - 35. Item 36 identified as the local telephony network is a conventional handset and cannot be reasonably construed as a network. The case 40 lacks the claimed pins of the connector plug recited in new claim 16. Nor does Streck teach a connector plug that is capable of connecting subsequent jacks to a third network or equipment.

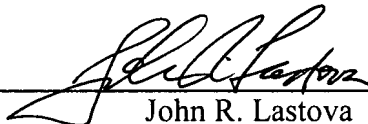
The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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